Shortage of raw material in Paradeep Phosphates Limited

1598. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of a particular type of raw material the Paradeep Phosphates Limited remained closed for a long period; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the loss sustained, and the step taken or proposed to be taken to avert closure on account of shortage of raw material ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) The DAP Plant of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has been experiencing periodic shortage of ammonia and/or phosphoric acid. The main reason for shortage of these inputs has been shortage of foreign exchange. The estimated cumulative production loss on this account is 7.6 lakh tonnes of DAP. For the import of ammonia and phosphoric acid, the Company is now free to import the inputs under Open General Licence (OGL) using foreign exchange at official rate.

Toxic Emission by Delhi Unit of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.

1599. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Unit of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited passes the deadly insecticide of DDT into the Najafgarh Drain or sub-soil water;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted into the toxic emission by the unit.

(c) what are the parameters set by the Central pollution Control Board on the presence of DDT in the water and what were the actual presence of DDT in the water in the surroundings of the unit; and

(d) the steps being taken to control and contain the toxic emissions by the units and with what results;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (d) The effluent water flowing out of the Delhi Unit of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL) is fully neutralised, after treatment in an effluent treatment plant before flowing into the Najafgarh drain. The Central Pollution Control Board has prescribed a maximum limit of 100 micro grams per litre of DDT and the treated water is found to be within these prescribed limits.

Studies have been conducted into all aspects of pollution caused by the Delhi Unit of HIL. A comprehensive set of recommended pollution control measures to meet minimum national standards have been arrived at. The Central Pollution Control Board have allowed HIL time until December, 1993 to complete this work. In order to ensure that these facilities are satisfactorily established the progress in this regard is monitored jointly by the Central Pollution Control Board, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the management of HIL and the Deptt. of Chemicals & Petro-chemicals.

Action against absent Employees of I.D.P.L.

1600. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the replies to Unstarred Question 1148 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1992 and state what action was taken against the employees referred to the replies to Unstarred Question 1121 dated 7th May, 1992 and Unstarred Question 4596 dated 20th August, 1992 respectively when Rule 30-A has to be applied to the cases of unauthorised absence for more than 30 days together with reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : In reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4596 dated 20th August, 1992, it was stated that out of 14 employees unauthorisedly absent on 30-3-1990, 5 were proceeded against under Rule 30-A. The remaining 9 officials were not charge-sheeted under rule 30-A. Out of these remaining 9 employees, one retired in the

normal course on 30-6-1990 and another officer reported for duty at the place where he was transferred. He was subsequently posted to Patiala on compassionate ground. One official resigned from service in June, 1990. Three officials reported for duty at the places where they were transferred. The services of two officials were terminated after disciplinary proceedings. However, out of these two, one has been reinstated, on an appeal, with reduction in rank. One of the said 9 officials, had been pleading that he was undergoing treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at the time of his transfer and he has now expressed his desire to report for duty at the place where he was transferred.

Policy for expansion of fertilizer industry

1601. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in the matter of chemical fertilizers and what is Government's policy for the expansion of fertilizer industry in the country;

(b) what formula Government are adopting for calculation of cost price of various brands of fertilizers for both manufactured indigenously and imported;

(c) whether Government into account the prices of fertilizers and other inputs while announcing the support prices of various agricultural produce; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Government's objective for future is to achieve maximum degree of self-sufficiency in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers. While in the case of nitrogen, it is estimated that 90% of the demand would be met through indigenous production during the Eighth Plan, in Phosphate, domestic raw material constraints do not permit self-sufficiency in production, but the aim is for increased utilisation of indigenous ores. As regards potash, entire requirements are met through imports as there are no known sources of potash in the country.

(b) In respect of indigenous controlled fertilizers, their retention prices are worked out plant-wise and product-wise based on a combination of norms and actuals in respect of various elements of cost, under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme. In respect of imported controlled fertilizers, the Government bears the difference between the total cost (cost incurred on importing, handling and distributing the fertilizers) and the pool issue price (the sale price to the farmers minus disrtibution margin).

(c) and (d) The support price for various agricultural commodities are decided by Government, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and concerned central Ministries. While recommending the support prices, CACP considers a number of factors such as cost of production, input/output price trends in the market, parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers. The cost of cultivation/production taken into account includes all paid out costs such as hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased-in land, besides expenses on use of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges etc.

Rise in price of essential drugs

1602. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of scheduled drugs and formulations referred to B.I.C.P. for price revision during last one year, the cases cleared with recommendations and the details of cases pending and reasons therefor in each of the case;

(b) the extent of price-rise of essential drugs due to increase in material cost and imported price of such material due to devaluation of rupee; and

(c) the steps taken for duty reduction on raw material of essential drugs to ensure availability of these drugs at reasonable prices ?